

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 21-56 remain pending.

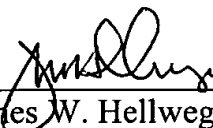
The status of all claims is now made clear. Reference to previously-cancelled claims 2-20 is now made in the listing of claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  _____
James W. Hellwege
Reg. No. 28,808
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000